

## BRERETON AND RAVEHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held in the Parish Hall on Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> June 2021.

### Present

Councillors: GN Molineux [Vice-Chairman in the Chair], Ms J Brown, K Ansell, Mrs P Ansell, Alderman R Easton, Mrs DM Easton, Mrs G Harvey, JC Harvey, TA Jones and Mrs L Johnson.

Mr PJ Davies, the stand-in Parish Clerk, was also in attendance.

### 1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were given at the start of the meeting.

### 2. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from DR Johnson, PA Fisher and Mrs W Fisher.

### 3. MINUTES

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021 be approved and signed as a correct record.

### 4. POLICE MATTERS

The Police were not in attendance at the meeting.

### 5. PUBLIC FORUM

The meeting was adjourned at this point to allow a period of time to be given to members of the public to make appropriate representation on local issues. A number of members of the public were in attendance along with a Local and District Councillor.

The focus from local residents was on the changed bus routes and how the recent changes are having an adverse impact on the local community. Some of the problems reported focused on the frequency of the service, the lack of communication from the bus company, the needs of some of the vulnerable residents that are not being met and the lack of services to certain locations in the Parish. The Local and District Councillors present were also challenged as to how the current situation is going to be resolved.

Parish Council members reassured local residents that they were extremely sympathetic to the needs of the local community over this issue. The Parish Council in itself has invested resources in installing new bus shelters in the locality and it fully expected a first-class bus service provision to follow. Various members of the Parish Council confirmed they have been making frequent representation to the necessary stakeholders over this issue to ensure that everything that can be done is being done for the local residents. Local parishioners acknowledged the support that has been received from the Parish Council to date over this issue and wanted to put on record how much they appreciated the efforts from members to hold necessary stakeholders to account in this area.

Looking ahead, it was confirmed that petitions are already underway in relation to this issue. It was felt that the key stakeholder in this area (the County Council who has given the local contract to D&G Bus, Chaserider) should be directly lobbied over this issue. The Local and District Councillors present at tonight's meeting were asked to consider what additional leverage they could bring to bear in this area.

Ultimately, a local service that meets the needs of **all** local residents and is fit for purpose needs to return at the first possible opportunity. The Parish Council remains firmly committed to securing this objective and will do what it can to lobby the necessary stakeholders over this issue.

Local residents were thanked for making this passionate representation at tonight's meeting.

The standard business of the meeting resumed.

## 6. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

There were a number of updates that were shared with members in relation to the May minutes which can be reported as follows:

### Minute 6 (1)

The stand in Clerk confirmed that a letter had been sent to D&G Bus, Chaserider to request that the service be reinstated as a matter of urgency.

### Minute 6 (2)

The stand in Clerk confirmed a letter had been sent to the MP about the reduction in service. To date, no response has been received.

### Minute 7

The stand in Clerk confirmed a meeting had been requested with the indicated parties. To date, no response has been received.

### Minute 9

The stand in Clerk confirmed that the information requested by the District Council had been forwarded to Mr R Sunter in the Planning Department. Councillor TA Jones provided some additional context in this area and highlighted why it is so crucial that the District Council supports the Parish with the release of Section 106 monies to fund this local community venture.

### Minute 17

The stand in Clerk confirmed an email had been sent to the Police to take urgent measures to enforce the law on alcohol in the park. The response from the Police was shared with members who thanked the Police for increasing their patrols in relation to this issue in the short-term.

Members at this point did outline some of the reasons why there does need to be additional pressure exerted to ensure the PSPO is renewed at the first possible opportunity by the Local Authority. There are concerns that with the summer months here, the current problems being faced are only going to escalate without the necessary due diligence being applied.

**Resolved:** That the Clerk continue to make representation to Cannock Chase District Council on this issue to safeguard the interests of law-abiding residents.

Parish Councillors also requested that the current situation is monitored carefully with further representation to be made to the Police if the situation deteriorates in the park further.

**Resolved:** That the Clerk keep the local situation under review and make further soundings to the Police if considered necessary.

**7. CORRESPONDENCE**

Councillors were unanimous in that the Parish should object to the removal of the Arthur Evans Close payphone. Some of the reasons for this objection were shared.

**Resolved:** That the Clerk make the necessary representation on behalf of the Parish Council.

**8. ANNUAL AUDIT RETURN 2020-2021**

Councillors had received the Audit documentation in advance of tonight's meeting. The Internal Audit was thorough, comprehensive and robust and members were reassured by the level of due diligence that had been applied. Councillors were asked to approve the Annual Governance Statement 2020-21.

**Resolved:** That the Annual Governance Statement 2020-2021 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

The Clerk was thanked for his detailed and thorough work in this area.

**9. ANNUAL ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS 2020-2021**

The Parish Council considered the Annual Accounting Statements, copies of which had been circulated.

**Resolved:** That the Annual Accounting Statements 2020-2021 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

**10. MEMBERSHIP OF FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

A motion was put forward to appoint DR Johnson to the Finance and Management Committee.

**Resolved:** That this motion be approved with immediate effect.

An addition motion was put forward to appoint Mrs L Johnson to the Planning Committee.

**Resolved:** That this motion be approved with immediate effect.

**11. RESIGNATION OF PARISH CLERK**

It is with some reluctance that members received the resignation letter from the Parish Clerk who will be standing down from his current role at the end of June. The letter of resignation was passed to the Vice-Chair and shared with members.

A number of councillors wanted to put on record their thanks to the Clerk for his tenure of service which has spanned a number of decades. During this time, it was reflected on just how much time and effort the Clerk has put into his role to service the needs of local Councillors and the community. As one Councillor intimated, replacing the Clerk will not be easy and everybody present was extremely thankful for all of the support they have received over the years. There is no doubt Peter will be missed, both as a professional colleague and a friend, and all Councillors wish the Clerk every peace and happiness in his future endeavours.

Attention did turn at this point as to how the Parish Council will move forward at the end of

June with clerking arrangements. The pleasing news is that Mrs R Davies will continue to support the Parish Council with certain activities and the services of a temporary clerk (Mr P Harrison) to carry out the clerical work have been secured. The caretaker will also take on additional duties and attention is focused on the one gap that still needs to be filled - the accounts and associated paperwork.

A number of decisions were reached at this point:

**Resolved:** That the resignation of the Clerk be accepted, with some reluctance.

**Resolved:** That the Chair of the Parish Council/Chair of the Finance and Management Committee be authorised to appoint an Acting Parish Clerk from the end of June.

**Resolved:** That the Chair of the Parish Council/Chair of the Finance and Management Committee be authorised to place adverts for a permanent Parish Clerk.

**Resolved:** That an agenda item be added to the next meeting where Councillors give due consideration as to how the formal departure of the Clerk will be recognised. One idea put forward at tonight's meeting was a plaque to reflect the long-standing service.

12. **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021 be approved and signed as a correct record.

13. **PARISH HALL AND PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the Parish Hall and Property Management Committee held on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021 be approved and signed as a correct record.

14. **FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the Finance and Management Committee held on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021 be approved and signed as a correct record.

15. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Parish Council had previously agreed that the next meeting would be held on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

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[Vice-Chairman]